



Phone: +1-877-411-7232
Fax: +1-425-699-4800

Email: info@5RDS.com
Web: www.5RDS.com

Guided Canoe / Kayak Paddling Safaris Information Sheet

Bay Minette Basin

Paddling Safari Type:

Evening sunset trips in summer and fall are especially attractive in the Basin. During the trip you will enjoy creek, main river channel and back bay/open water paddling. Enjoy a scenery of primarily open canopy estuarine marsh, bordering sand hill bluffs of Longleaf Pine, Maple, Oak and Hickory.

Distance: Less than 4 miles

Time on Water: 3-4 hrs

Safari Length: ½ Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, Nutria, River Otter, Deer, wading birds, water fowl, various water snakes and aquatic turtles.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Water levels may become very low in winter after cold fronts with a prolonged north wind. Good for beginner paddlers.

Hurricane Creek

Paddling Safari Type:

A slow leisurely current assists our guests with their creek and main river channel paddling through open river and forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses and Cypress / Gum forests.

Distance: Less than 4 miles

Time on Water: 3-4 hrs

Safari Length: ½ Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, Nutria, River Otter, Beaver, Deer, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes and aquatic turtles.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Water levels consistent for all seasons. Great for beginner paddlers.

Gravine Island / Military Cut / Big Briar Creek

Paddling Safari Type:

This trip involves Creek and main river channel paddling. Open river and forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress/Gum forests and man-made sand spoil banks. The Spoil banks offer dry sand hill habitats surrounded by low wetland swamps. Spoil banks are also major nesting areas for the endangered Alabama red-bellied turtle.

Paddle Distance: 8 miles

Time on Water: ~5 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes and aquatic turtles.

Season:

Due to the extent of open river paddling, this trip is limited to optimal weather conditions during spring, summer and early fall and a reasonable level of fitness is recommended.





Phone: +1-877-411-7232
Fax: +1-425-699-4800

Email: info@5RDS.com
Web: www.5RDS.com

Tensaw Lake / Briar Lake

Paddling Safari Type:

This trip contains both creek and main river channel paddling through open river and forested wetland habitats composed of Cypress / Gum forests.

Paddle Distance: 10.6 miles

Time on Water: ~7 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes and aquatic turtles.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Water levels consistent for all seasons.

French's Lake / Tensaw Lake

Paddling Safari Type:

Guests will enjoy creek and main river channel paddling through open river and forested wetland habitats composed of Cypress / Gum forests.

Paddle Distance: 6.5 miles

Time on Water: ~7 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, wading birds, rare woodland bird species, various raptors, river otter, deer, feral hogs, turkey, various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species.

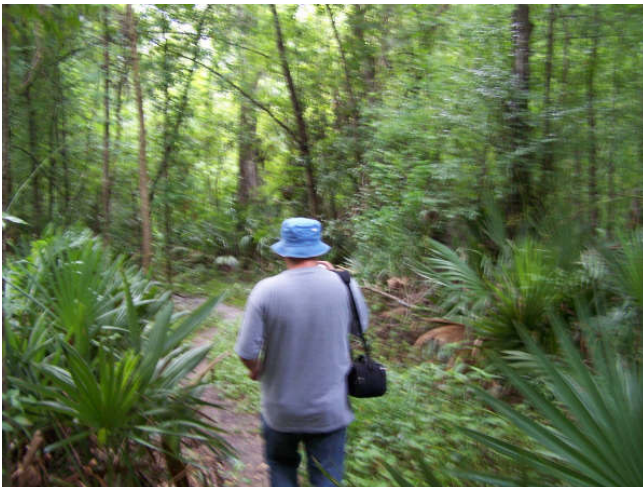
Season:

Can be paddled year round. This trip may be limited to water level in upper sections of trail.

Mound Island

Paddling Safari Type:

This amazing trip takes our guests down quiet backwater creeks and bayous meandering through deep southern swamp forests, accentuated by a short hike to a 500 - 800 year old native Mississippian Indian mound complex.



Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, Turkey, wading birds, rare woodland bird species, various raptors, various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species. During summer and fall seasons, the large and beautiful Golden Silk Spider is abundant throughout the Delta and may be encountered along the trail to the mounds.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Water levels consistent for all seasons.

Paddle Distance: 8.6 miles

Time on Water: ~8 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day



Phone: +1-877-411-7232
Fax: +1-425-699-4800

Email: info@5RDS.com
Web: www.5RDS.com

Bayou Sara / Black Creek

Paddling Safari Type:

Bayou Sara and Black Creek introduce our guests to quiet backwater creeks and bayous consisting of some upland habitats and extensive marsh communities. This trip also consists of a walking tour of an active Gopher Tortoise population and their associated communities.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Water levels consistent for all seasons.

Paddle Distance: 7 miles

Time on Water: ~5 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, Black Bear, Bobcat, River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, Turkey, Gopher Tortoise, wading birds, rare woodland bird species, various raptors, various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species.



Bayou Heron

Paddling Safari Type:

The Bayou Heron introduces our guests to blackwater seepage streams with a strong tidal influence. Some open salt marsh paddling and tidal creeks lead to habitats consisting of Juncus / Spartina estuarine marsh with sporadic oyster shell middens of Live Oak and Marsh Elder. During summer, large expanses of seagrass can be seen in protected coves of Bayou La Fourche and Barton Island. An additional walk through the Live Oak Birding Trail may be included if time allows.

Paddle Distance: 8 – 12 miles

Time on Water: ~8 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, Plovers / Oystercatchers / Terns / Black skimmer, River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, Black Bear, the only brackish water turtle species in the world - Diamondback Terrapin, Turkey, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes and numerous frog species.

Season:

Due to the degree of open water and strong tidal influence, this trip is limited to late spring/summer/early fall. Guests should have good physical fitness.

Magnolia River

Paddling Safari Type:

This safari travels down a blackwater river and blackwater seepage streams with a strong tidal influence through habitats consisting of Juncus / Spartina estuarine marsh and freshwater swamps. A short walk through a native pitcher plant bog maintained by the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and discussion of endemic species may be included if time allows.

Paddle Distance: 6 miles

Time on Water: ~3.5 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Deer, Turkey, wading birds, various raptors (including Bald Eagles), various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species.

Season:

The open shallow waters of Weeks Bay to the mouth of the Fish River may experience significant chop depending on season and wind direction. Therefore this trip is limited to Late Spring / Summer / early Fall.



Phone: +1-877-411-7232
Fax: +1-425-699-4800

Email: info@5RDS.com
Web: www.5RDS.com

Escatawpa River

Paddling Safari Type:

This blackwater river of slow to moderate flow is tea colored from tannins that leach out and stain the water. The Escatawpa is a small coastal plain river consisting of numerous meandering bends and white sand beaches. These small tannic water streams are devoid of alligators and make excellent warm weather float excursions. There are swimming/fishing holes around every bend and plenty of spots to stop and picnic.

Paddle Distance: 12 miles

Time on Water: ~6 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, Turkey, Black Bear, Bobcat, wading birds, rare woodland bird species, various raptors, various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Spring, Summer and Fall are recommended as the cool Tea colored waters are most refreshing on a hot and humid South Alabama day.

Styx River

Paddling Safari Type:

The Styx river is another blackwater river with a slower flow than the Escatawpa and a longer float time. These small tannic water streams are devoid of alligators and make excellent warm weather float excursions. There are swimming/fishing holes around every bend and plenty of spots to stop and picnic.

Paddle Distance: 15.4

Time on Water: ~8 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

River Otter, Deer, Feral Hogs, Turkey, Black Bear, Bobcat, wading birds, rare woodland bird species, various raptors, various water snakes, aquatic turtles and numerous frog species.

Season:

Can be paddled year round. Spring, Summer and Fall are recommended as the cool Tea colored waters are most refreshing on a hot and humid South Alabama day.

The Basin Negro Paddle Exploration - Boat Combo

Paddling Safari Type:

The Basin is fed by blackwater seepage and forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress / Gum forest and extensive submergent aquatic vegetation during the summer growing season. Located near the geographic center of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the Basin consists of large expanses of open water with seven major creek/bayou tributaries that may be explored at a leisurely pace.

Season:

This trip is limited to optimal weather conditions during Spring, Summer and early Fall. Due to the remote location and width of surrounding rivers, paddlers will be dropped off and retrieved via pontoon boat.

Paddle Distance: 3 – 4 miles

Time on Water: ~4 hrs

Safari Length: Full Day

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Feral Hogs, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes, frogs, aquatic turtles and during late summer and fall occasional West Indian manatee.





Phone: +1-877-411-7232
Fax: +1-425-699-4800

Email: info@5RDS.com
Web: www.5RDS.com

Basin Negro / Gravine Island - 1 Day & 1 Night Boat Combo

Paddling Safari Type:

The Basin is fed by blackwater seepage and forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress / Gum forest and extensive submergent aquatic vegetation during the summer growing season. Located near the geographic center of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the Basin consists of large expanses of open water with seven major creek/bayou tributaries that may be explored. Gravine Island includes man-made sand spoil banks. The Spoil banks offer dry sand hill habitats surrounded by low wetland swamps. Spoil banks are also major nesting areas for the endangered Alabama red-bellied turtle.

Paddle Distance: 8 miles

Time on Water: ~8 hrs

Safari Length: 1 Day + 1 Night

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Feral Hogs, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes, frogs, aquatic turtles and during late summer and fall occasional West Indian manatee.

Season:

This trip is limited to optimal weather conditions during Spring, Summer and early Fall. Due to the remote location and width of surrounding rivers, paddlers will be dropped off, accompanied and retrieved via pontoon boat. Sleeping arrangements will be onboard the Pontoon Boat under the stars.

Basin Negro / Gravine Island - 2 Day Boat Combo

Paddling Safari Type:

This two day adventure has one full day of paddling followed by an optional second full day of paddling or a leisurely day spent exploring the ground of Gravine Island, relaxing on the Pontoon Boat fishing or bird spotting.

Day 1:

The Basin is fed by blackwater seepage and forested wetland habitats composed of marsh grasses, Cypress / Gum forest and extensive submergent aquatic vegetation during the summer growing season. Located near the geographic center of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, the Basin consists of large expanses of open water with seven major creek/bayou tributaries that may be explored at a leisurely pace.

Day 2:

Explore the man-made sand spoil banks and low wetland swamps of Gravine Island. The Spoil banks offer dry sand hill habitats and are a major nesting area for the endangered Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle. Choose to paddle further down the Tensaw and Apalachee rivers with the current, awaiting pickup from the Pontoon Boat or ride the Pontoon Boat home.

Expected Wildlife:

Alligator, River Otter, Feral Hogs, wading birds, various raptors, various water snakes, frogs, aquatic turtles including the endangered Alabama Red-Bellied Turtle and during late summer and fall, occasional West Indian manatee.

Season:

This trip is limited to optimal weather conditions during Spring, Summer and early Fall. Due to the remote location and width of surrounding rivers, paddlers will be dropped off, accompanied and retrieved via pontoon boat. Sleeping arrangements will be onboard the Pontoon Boat under the stars.

Paddle Distance: 8 - 16 miles

Time on Water: 8 - 16 hrs

Safari Length: 2 Day + 1 Night

